

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAFinal Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1954-55.

Although there still are a few minor wheat districts where the completion of the collection has been delayed, and a number of odd returns from farmers in other districts are outstanding, a safe estimate has been made for all these and the totals now submitted may be accepted subject to slight alteration.

Seasonal Conditions. The average rainfall over the Agricultural Areas for April was $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the mean for that month, but for May the rainfall was only one-third of the mean. The June rain was just over the mean, but July to September were very dry, the total rain for the 3 months being only 3.14 inches compared with the mean of 5.35. Fortunately the falls for both October and November were practically the same as the means for these months and temperatures were near normal. Over the last 50 seasons, the wheat crop has averaged 11.37 bushels on a mean April-November rainfall of 12.36 inches. In 1952-53, the maximum yield of 21.97 bushels was grown on an April-November rainfall of 15.19 inches, in 1953-54 the yield was 19.90 bushels from 12.62 inches and this last season 18.63 bushels from only 10.85 inches. Compared with the mean yield of 11.37 bushels, the yields for the last 9 seasons have been 11.08; 13.70; 12.67; 14.95; 16.74; 16.92; 21.97; 19.90 and 18.63 bushels per acre.

Barley and oats were affected somewhat by storms but generally speaking harvesting conditions were good and actual yields exceeded expectations. The yield of wheat is 31,462,737 bushels compared with the December estimate of 29,300,000; barley 18,376,283 compared with 17,800,000; oats 4,508,117 compared with 4,100,000 and field peas 419,194 compared with 340,000 bushels. Acreages also were higher than estimated and these contributed to the higher yields.

The total yield of wheat, barley and oats combined was 54,347,137 bushels from 3,048,416 acres and has been exceeded only in 3 seasons. The record combined yield was 66,486,793 bushels from 2,850,633 acres in 1952/53.

In 1953-54, the combined yield of barley and oats exceeded that of wheat for the first time, but for the 1954-55 season the wheat yield again was greater.

NOTE:- The 1954-55 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1953-54 in parentheses. For statistical purposes, the weight of bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 31,462,737 (30,409,231) bushels averaged 18.63 (19.90) bushels per acre from an area of 1,689,103 (1,528,377) acres including any areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 1,766,539 (1,603,914) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land 1,204,520 acres of wheat produced 25,066,135 bushels averaging 20.81 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 484,583 acres with 6,396,602 bushels averaging 13.20 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 22.06 bushels on fallow land and 13.87 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 18,376,283 (28,491,293) bushels and the average per acre was 18.02 (25.40). 17,703,036 bushels were reported to be 2 row and 673,247 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 1,019,673 (1,121,744) and for all purposes 1,057,818 (1,144,397). The 1953-54 acreage and total yield had been records, but a reduced acreage for 1954-55, together with storm damage, resulted in a considerably lower yield. The acreage, however, was still the second highest on record and the yield the third highest.

OATS:- The yield totalled 4,508,117 (4,320,758) bushels and the average per acre was 13.27 (15.42). The acreage for grain was 339,640 (280,244) acres and for all purposes 767,581 (700,325). As with barley, the oaten crops were damaged by storm. The acreage, however, was higher than in the previous season and there was a slightly increased yield.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS:- Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March 1955. For seed - Wheat 2,076,293, Barley 1,336,782 and Oats 983,451 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 881,312; Barley 831,501; Oats 1,366,750 bushels and Hay and Chaff 201,552 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1954-55 it was reported that 1,792,898 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 562,755 bushels for feed.

RYE:- For 1954-55 there were 48,277 (62,141) acres under rye of which 37,891 (52,520) acres were for grain yielding 178,650 (324,907) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 419,194 (423,666) bushels from 35,280 (26,093) acres. 4,235 acres of field peas were fed off. Approximately the same area as in 1953-55 was intended to be sown for 1955-56.

HAY:- 256,525 (262,006) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 68,242 (62,458) and oaten 125,772 (118,529) acres. The total yield was 329,618 (369,296) tons, wheaten being 99,819 (99,866) and oaten 146,583 (150,303). Average tons per acre were 1.28 (1.41).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for each of the last five seasons, and for 1955-56 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the autumn. It is noted that the combined areas under wheat, barley and oats have been showing a slight upward movement in recent years.

Season		Wheat	Barley	Oats	Total
1930-31	acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1943-44	"	1,675,778	304,382	558,065	2,538,225
1950-51	"	1,950,076	793,717	664,498	3,408,291
1951-52	"	1,687,897	858,464	816,418	3,362,779
1952-53	"	1,601,438	953,572	699,750	3,254,760
1953-54	"	1,603,914	1,144,397	700,325	3,448,636
1954-55	"	1,766,539	1,057,818	767,581	3,591,938
1955-56	"	1,716,851	1,035,804	922,983	3,675,638

Prior to 1952-53, the total area under wheat for all purposes exceeded the combined areas of barley and oats, but from 1952-53 onwards the combined barley and oats areas have exceeded that for wheat.

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats are being published separately.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1954-55 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1954-55 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

A.W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.
6th September, 1955.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1954-55.

Divisions	Total Cereals, Peas, Hay Green Fodder	AREA FOR GRAIN			Hay Total	Green Fodder
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Central	846,864	279,239	338,120	50,484	103,192	53,357
Lower North	844,476	456,519	194,639	57,593	49,114	75,371
Upper North	142,161	106,039	13,808	9,374	7,464	4,540
South Eastern	140,820	33,637	26,079	31,027	36,818	12,545
Western	1,074,783	520,444	204,714	142,048	24,098	181,533
Murray Mallee	692,363	293,225	242,313	49,114	35,839	36,009
Total 1954/55	3,741,467	1,689,103	1,019,673	339,640	256,525	363,355
Total 1953/54	3,638,918	1,528,377	1,121,744	280,244	262,006	367,934
Increase	102,549	160,726	-102,071	59,396	-5,481	-4,579

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

Division	GRAIN						Hay Total Tons
	WHEAT		BARLEY		OATS		
	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	
Central	6,652,556	23.82	7,599,115	22.47	919,027	18.20	151,149
Lower North	11,311,118	24.78	4,066,588	20.89	1,084,136	18.82	60,769
Upper North	2,162,386	20.39	219,424	15.89	145,490	15.52	8,853
South Eastern	758,011	22.54	511,215	19.60	714,235	23.02	53,580
Western	6,659,150	12.80	2,891,761	14.13	1,180,175	8.31	22,970
Murray Mallee	3,919,516	13.37	3,088,180	12.74	465,054	9.47	32,297
Total 1954/55	31,462,737	18.63	18,376,283	18.02	4,508,117	13.27	329,618
Total 1953/54	30,409,231	19.90	28,491,293	25.40	4,320,758	15.42	369,296
Increase	1,053,506	-1.27	-10,115,010	-7.38	187,359	-2.15	-39,678

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov.	BARLEY	OATS
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acre			
	Acres	Bush.	Bush.	Inches	Bush.	Bush.
1949-50	1,896,324	28,350,860	14.95	12.18	12,725,240	3,463,997
1950-51	1,847,791	30,936,044	16.74	11.21	16,727,030	3,533,333
1951-52	1,613,126	27,300,839	16.92	16.10	16,825,996	5,404,927
1952-53	1,543,762	33,918,689	21.97	15.19	25,901,684	6,666,420
1953-54	1,528,377	30,409,231	19.90	12.62	28,491,293	4,320,758
Mean	1,685,876	30,183,133	17.90	13.46	20,134,249	4,677,887
1954-55	1,689,103	31,462,737	18.63	10.85	18,376,283	4,508,117

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